Bonds causing doubts on the success of its Rs. 2500 ctore fund raising Bond from capital markets;

(b) whether this downgrading of HUDCO Bond rating is based on recent HUDCO investments in State Government Undertakings which are considered defaulters; and

(c) if so, whether any special investigation/probe into financial operations of HUDCO is underway?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION {SHRIANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Rejection of Indian marine products by foreign countries

1077. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries have rejected marine product exports from India recently due to hygiene problems;

(b) the details of countries who have rejected Indian marine products exported in 2002-2003. so far;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the image and quality of Indian marine products;

(d) the details of such steps taken;

(e) whether more inspections are likely to be carried out of the premises where such products are processed;and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY {SHRi RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government of India have received a total number of 50 complaints for the year 2002 and 8 complaints for the year 2003 from European Union countries reporting

contamination (microbiological and chemical), in the consignments of fish and fishery products exported from India. The country-wise status of complaints for the year 2002 & 2003 is as indicated below:

Country	2002	2003
Spain	22	2
Norway	6	
Netherlands	5	
France	3	
U.K,	3	
Italy	5	6
Portugal	1	
Greece	2	
Germany	2	
Belgium	1	
TOTAL :	50	8

(c) and (d) Government have taken a number of steps to eliminate the incidence ot rejection of consignments of fish & fishery products on account of microbiological & chemical contamination, which include, laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards; prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals; monitoring by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) of the processing units to ensure that required standards are followed; campaign by MPEDA and other Government agencies in all seafood producing areas to bring quality awareness among the exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc. and to dissuade them not to use the banned chemicals at any stage; setting up/ upgradation of laboratories for the purpose of testing of seafood at major production centers and improvement/modernisation of fish landing centres and fishing harbours.

(e) and (f) EIC have devised a detailed complaint handling rnechanism under which a processing unit, against whom complaint has been recurved is put on alert and monitoring of the unit, by the officials of EIC/Export Inspection Agencies (ElAs), is made more stringent. EIC/EIAs carry out detailed investigations in each case to ascertain the exact cause and source of the contamination and take further necessary steps with a view to prevent the cause of such contamination.

SEZs to Promote investment fn export oriented activities

1078. SHRI S.S. AriLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established in various parts of the country in order to promote investments In export oriented activities;

(b) the difference between Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and (SEZs):

(c) the number of EPZs and SEZs approved and established in the State of Jharkhand;

(d) whether Government had announced in the Exim Poticy-2001 about setting up of SEZs;

(e) the number of SEZs approved since then and made operational so far; and

(f) the details of SEZs proposed to make operational In the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major differences between Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are (i) no minimum export performance stipulation for SEZ units, (11) domestic sates on payment of full duty allowed for SEZ units against a ceiling of 50% of exports for EPZ units (iii) retention of 100% export earnings by SEZ units in EEFC account; for EPZs this is restricted to 70%, (iv) simplified Custom and Central Excise procedure in SEZs.